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Meeting Minutes 02/20/2008

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 2/20/08

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		Dunn*	Phelps	Mahoney
DeCoursey	Connors*	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: TAC Chair Ed Starr, CRB Member Joe Rosselli

MINUTES of 2/11 approved as amended. Unanimous.

ART 62 TAC APPROPRIATION: Starr reviewed the appropriation history of his committee stating that as of Jan TAC had \$15,938 in unspent funds. TAC uses its appropriations to conduct traffic-related studies and to provide seed money for traffic related improvements in town. He mentioned thermoplastic street crossing marking. He requested that the committee be allowed to carry over funds for 3 years. VOTED to authorize rollover of TAC funds to FY09 not to exceed \$15,000 with the exact amount to be provided later by the TAC Chair. Unanimous.

ART 41 EXTEND VETERAN BENEFITS: Rosselli requested reconsideration of the FinCom's vote of no action taken on 2/4. He stated that John Maher would accept "widow" in place of "estate" for the recipient of this benefit to a disabled town employee who was also a qualified military veteran. Under questioning, Rosselli agreed that the recent legislation, which extended this benefit (formerly received only by regular retirees) to disabled retirees, explicitly banned deceased employees from receiving the benefit. He was unable to explain why this provision was in the legislation nor why he considers it unfair. Rosselli also stated that the entire CRB supported the warrant article. He suggested that the town had a patriotic duty to support the warrant article. If the legislature were to amend the law as Rosselli requests, at least 16 widows would benefit at a cost to the retirement plan of \$131k. After considerable discussion, the FinCom declined to reconsider its previous vote.

BUD 2 BoS: GenGov SubCom (DuBois), using a handout, reviewed both the election budget and the administrative budget. Many questions concerned the growth of election costs and the growth in the office staff. The % increase over FY08 will exceed 2.7%. A reduction in the Comptroller's budget may bring the total increase for the appointing authority into line.

VOTED \$398,558 Unanimous.

BUD 10 LEGAL: GenGov SubCom (Howard), using a handout, explained the changes in this department associated with the retirement of John Maher.

VOTED \$460,048. Unanimous.

BUD 17 STREETLIGHTS: PubWks SubCom(Olsen) recommended the budget as revised by the Manager.

VOTED \$418,893. Unanimous.

BUD 21 LIBRARIES: LibHumSer SubCom(Franclemont) recommended the budget as revised by the Manager.
VOTED \$1,898,988 Unanimous.

BUD 25 RESERVE FUND: Tosti recommended the budget as printed, \$450,000 a 12.5% increase over FY08. He stated this was part of a plan to increase the fund to 1% of the budget. Foscett moved to increase this to \$500,000. Members discussed the pressure on department budgets as they have been squeezed by health insurance inflation. Of particular concern is overtime, retirement deferred compensation, schools and ice & snow. Carman to request the list of uncompensated absences from the Comptroller. The motion to appropriate \$500,000 failed 6-9 because of concern with defending such a large increase and the message it might send to department heads.
VOTED \$450,000. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE Turkall provided new pages for the budget books and a revised schedule of hearings:

On 2/25 Harrington on Sidewalks School Routes, Schools

On 2/27 Town Manager on Town Budgets.

On 3/3 Capital Planning Committee on Capital Budget.

On 3/5 Moderator on Warrant timing, Minuteman Tech

On 3/10 Permanent Town Building Committee on Thompson School.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$276,706.28

Peter B Howard Secretary 2/21/08

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Comptroller, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

# 1/28	# 2/4	# 2/20	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
18	5	17	Bylaw Amend 1,1,2, Open Warrant			
27	7	19	Bylaw Amend Afford House Trust			Foscett reported 2/11
20	14	26	Bylaw Amend Snow Removal			
21	15	27	Bylaw Amend 1,18 Mtg Notices	2/4		Tabled Tosti to discuss w/ BoS
63	39	40	Increase Accidental Death Benefit	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
64	40	41	Extend Benefits	2/4 2/20	2/4	No Action Dunn to write comment.
62	41	42	Pension Adjustments	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
66	43	43	Transfer to OPEB Funds			ACRB
65	42	43	Transfer OPEB Funds	2/4	2/4	Tabled. Report from Maher, Treasuer hearing
		44	Transfer to Retiree Health Care Fund			
68	44	45	Borrowing for OPEB	2/11		
67	45	46	Pension Obligation Funds	2/11		
45	47	48	Positions reclassification			Phelps to present
43	48	49	Collective Bargaining			
44	49	50	Future Collective Bargaining			
46	51	52	Budgets			

47	52	53	Capital Budget			Hearing 3/3 8:00
	54	55	Swimming Pool	2/6	2/6	Favorable action \$0
55	55	56	Sewers			
56	56	57	Water			
48	57	58	Rescind authority to borrow			
50	58	59	Minuteman Tech			DeCourcney to schedule
51	59	60	Town Celebrations			Twñ Man
53	60	61	Committees & Commissions			hearing if last year approp not OK
		62	TAC Appropriation	2/20	2/20	Fav Action not to exceed \$15000
52	62	63	Miscellaneous			Twñ Man
28	63	64	Town Water Bodies			Hearing in mid-March
70	64	65	Harry Barber Service Program			hearing if last year approp not OK
69	66	66	Local Option Taxes			
72	67	67	Tip Fee Stab Fund			
58	68	68	Tip Fund Money Appropriation	2/6	2/6	No action
73	69	69	Cemetery			
74	70	70	Overlay Reserve Surplus			
75	71	71	Stabilization Fund			
76	72	72	Free Cash			
59	73	73	Medicare Part D Reimbursement	2/6	2/6	No action 9-2
	74	74	CRB Report	2/6 2/11	2/6 2/11	Favorable Action Para 1 & 3 Request not require
57	75	75	Services to Non-Profits	2/6	2/6	No report 9-1 Encourage followthrough
60	76	76	SPED	2/6	2/6	No action

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/11	2/11	10778	
2	Board of Selectmen	2/20	2/20	398558	
3	Town Manager				
4	Personnel				
5	Information Technology				
6	Comptroller				
7	Treasurer				
8	Postage				
9	Assessors				

10	Legal	2/20	2/20	460047	
11	Town Clerk				
12	Registrar of Voters				
13	Parking				
14	Planning				
15	Redevelopment Board				
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	2/11	2/11	23311	
17	Public Works	2/11	2/11	6831546	15-0-1
17a	Street Lights	2/20	2/20	418893	
18a	Community Safety Admin				
18b	Police				
18c	Fire				
18d	Support				
19	Inspections				
20	Education				
21	Library	2/20	2/20	1898988	
21b	Veterans				
21c	COA				
22a	Health & Human Services				
23	Retirement				
24	Insurance				
25	Reserve Fund	2/20	2/20	450000	
W&S					
Rec					
Rnk					
COA					
Youth					